

ON TO MANILA

an illustrated, true and concise history of the

Philippine Campaign

91

illustrations taken at the time by Douglas White, the war correspondent of the San Francisco Examiner.

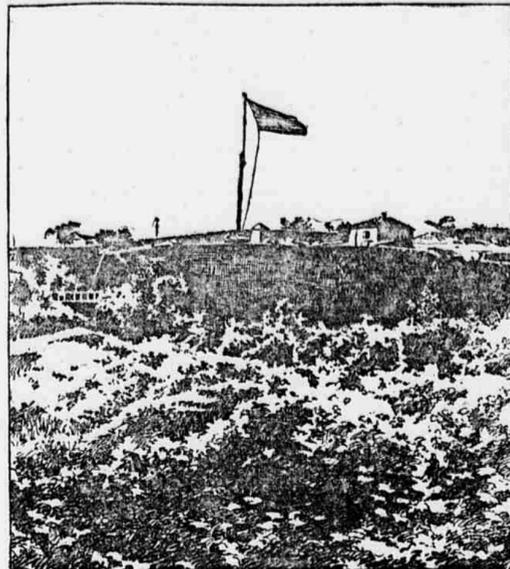


The Old Bell at Sumaye, Ladrone Islands, cast in 1680. Reproduced from an illustration in "On to Manila."

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(Continued from Seventh Page.)

the fact and at the same time sent out one company and two Nordenskiöld guns. We could see any further advance, but in a short time after I had returned to camp I heard six shots. Three were in our direction. After that there was no further disturbance by shooting. But in the morning about seventy-five armed Filipinos withdrew from the front of our outpost and went towards Marquina. These men wore white uniforms generally. All day yesterday large parties of Filipinos in white gathered green corn from the field near Marquina and carried towards the mountains. Towards evening about 600 native troops in uniform and armed were seen near Cainta, evidently resting, or going into bivouac. We fired four times at them with the artillery. What effect it had we could not learn.

(Signed) JOHN M. STOTSBERG, Col. 1st Neb. U. S. Vol. Inf.

First Nebraska, U. S. Vol. Infantry, Office of the Commanding Officer, In camp between Deposito and Pumping Station, Feb. 20th, 1899.

To the Adjutant, 1st Nebraska, U. S. V.

I have the honor to submit the following report: At about 3:30 p. m., Capt. Ough, 1st Nebraska, U. S. V., reported a body of insurgents, in force, moving in a direction southeast of my camp, and that he had moved Company "B," 1st Neb., U. S. V., southward to encounter them. I immediately formed Company "H," 1st Neb., U. S. V., and moved southwest, connecting with the left of "B" company. A small body of insurgents were seen in our front, and the two companies were moved forward for nearly half a mile, when a larger body of insurgents was encountered. Several volleys were exchanged, when another body of the enemy opened a vigorous volley fire upon our left flank.

As we were in an open field, without shelter, we withdrew for about fifty yards across a ravine to a higher and more commanding position. Several volleys were fired from this position. The insurgents then withdrew in a southeasterly direction. As it was too late and the men were exhausted both companies returned to camp. On the point to which "H" and "B" withdrew, "H" company, 1st Neb., U. S. V., were formed in line of skirmishers, occupying the right of the position.

The number of insurgents encountered was probably two hundred, with a much stronger force along a bamboo hedge, nearly a half a mile further south. In this encounter it was noticeable that the insurgents fired by volley. Their bugle sounded two calls. Two insurgents were found dead, and two Remington rifles, a bolo and about two hundred rounds of ammunition were secured. No injuries on our side.

(Signed) FRANK D. EAGER, Capt. 1st Neb. U. S. V. Inf., Commanding Co. "H."

First Nebraska, U. S. Vol. Infantry, Office of the Commanding Officer, Pumping Station, Feb. 17th, 1899.

To Capt. Holdeman, Commanding Outpost:

Send Sergeant Todd and three to six men out to make reconnaissance about two or three miles to northwest. We killed one officer and eight men here and the enemy retreated. Although we flanked their position, their line overlapped ours and they had a flanking fire on some of our men. They made two more stands after this, but we drove them out. We followed them through a deserted village and then San Francisco del Monte and broke up their organization. Part of their forces returned to Marquina afterwards without arms.

We had two officers and six men wounded. I had eight men and one officer of the insurgents killed in one place. Four were severely wounded and took two prisoners. We could not take their wounded in, but dressed their wounds, hung a white flag over them and left them water. We did not get in with our wounded until dark.

I especially invite attention to Sgt. Poor's report. I gave him his orders when I inspected the outpost at 10:00 a. m. The movement seemed to be either a concentration on the part of the insurgents to attack our outpost or make a night attack on the Deposito, or our lines.

(Signed) JOHN M. STOTSBERG, Col. 1st Neb. U. S. Vol. Inf.

Headquarters 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 8th Army Corps, Manila, P. I., Feb. 27th, 1899.

Adjutant General, Second Division, Eighth Army Corps.

I have the honor to report that last night I received reports of a train of carriages going toward Antipolo from the northwest. I sent out a scouting party of twelve men and an officer, and then followed it up with three companies, as the distance when first seen was under-estimated. We went to a large stream which was impassable for our company. Three men ran into an armed boat, although they went a mile further, they could not reach the road in the dark on account of another stream which we could not ford or cross. The train was composed of carbon carts, carromates and quillies and were from about 9 p. m. until 2:00 a. m. There seemed to be no armed escort with them.

(Signed) JOHN M. STOTSBERG, Col. 1st Neb. U. S. Vol. Inf.

1st Nebraska, U. S. Vol. Infantry, Office of the Commanding Officer, Pumping Station, Feb. 14th, 1899.

To the Adj. General, 2nd Div., 8th Army Corps.

I have the honor to report that everything has been quiet in this vicinity today. The troops have been employed in strengthening our position with intrenchments.

(Signed) JOHN M. STOTSBERG, Col. 1st Neb. U. S. Vol. Inf.

In the Field, Deposito, Pumping Station Road, Feb. 15th, 1899.

To the Adjutant, 1st Nebraska Infantry, U. S. Vol.

I have the honor to submit the following report: About eight a. m. I sent Lieut. Moore with fifteen men of my company to return to place where he had seen a Philippine force yesterday, and find out its probable strength and what they were doing. En route they were joined by five more men, who asked to go with them. Lieut. Moore

states that he was advancing carefully in advance guard formation, when they ran into about twenty insurgents at ten o'clock. They exchanged several shots, when the insurgents were reinforced by a company of fifty or sixty insurgents. The patrol retreated slowly about eighty rods, when the patrol found a secure position, and forced the natives to retreat. At that time I came up with a support. As the insurgents were then retreating and had gone so far, and had disappeared, I did not deem it well to pursue them further. As we advanced we found two natives mortally wounded and secured a Remington rifle and a sword from them.

Musical Wm. H. Disbrow was wounded in the thigh, not serious. About three miles north of the Deposito Pumping station road we found the natives throwing rice and transporting it to the army in the hills. Several hundred natives, men and children, were engaged in this kind of work.

I would mention the following men of Company "H," 1st Nebraska Infantry, U. S. V., for very meritorious conduct, viz.: First Sergeant R. B. McConnell, Privates Charles R. Stall, Charles H. Youngs, Lewis H. Brislin, Rees Robbins, Cecil I. Bottenfeld, Giles Knapp and Mace. Wm. H. Disbrow. These men were on the firing line bravely holding their position when I arrived.

(Signed) FRANK D. EAGER, Capt. Co. "H," 1st Neb. U. S. Vol. Inf.

Headquarters 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 8th Army Corps, Manila, P. I., Feb. 27th, 1899.

Adjutant General, Second Division, Eighth Army Corps.

I have the honor to enclose copies of reports of Colonel Stotsenberg, 1st Nebraska Infantry, U. S. V., Capt. Barber and Lieut. Murphy, 2nd Oregon Infantry, U. S. V., on an expedition consisting of Hotchkiss revolving cannon and gun detachment, with escort of twenty-five men, to drive insurgents out of a position near Marquina road, from which they were delivering an annoying fire on the Nebraska camp and outpost. This movement was based on the following telegraphic correspondence:

To A. A. G., 2nd Brig. I have the honor to report to send one Hotchkiss and 25 Oregon men out Marquina road, to shell insurgents southwest of our outposts. They can reach our camp occasionally from the rocks. In the general coming out here this evening.

(Signed) STOTSBERG, Col. Hdqrs. 2nd Div. 8th A. C., Feb. 24th, 1899.

To Col. Stotsenberg, Deposito. Approve sending gun and Oregon detachment as support, as recommended, but avoid infantry engagement if possible. You had better go with them or send some other familiar with location of insurgents. Be economical of ammunition as possible. Will probably stay at B. H. 5 again tonight unless something special out your way. Insurgents in considerable force 800 to 1,000 yards front of South Dakota and Colorado.

(Signed) HALE, Brig. Gen. I supposed that the insurgents could be driven out with the gun from the road or immediate vicinity, and that the infantry detachment would be required only as escort and support, but it appears from the development of circumstances and failure of Hotchkiss gun, as specified in reports, that considerable infantry fire was necessary. The general effect on the insurgents seems to have been good. Very respectfully,

(Signed) IRVING HALE, Brigadier General Commanding, 1st Nebraska, U. S. Vol. Infantry, Office of the Commanding Officer, Pumping Station, Feb. 25, 1899.

To the Adj. General, 2nd Div. 8th Army Corps.

I have the honor to state that yesterday morning about 4 a. m. a company of sharp-

shooters in the fields west of Marquina and others in the rocks, about 800 yards north of the Marquina road, began firing into our camp. This had stopped the night before about 11. Several of their shots came into our tents. The insurgents are occupying a position about 400 yards from our outpost, on the Marquina road. After daylight we drove them out of the fields near Marquina with the artillery and then they got into the rocks north and northwest of the Marquina road and made it very unpleasant for us. About 12:30 p. m. I came in to the Deposito intending to get permission to dislodge them from there. When I arrived Major Eastwick, Second Oregon, asked for permission to send about twenty men out the Marquina road to make a reconnaissance and dislodge some insurgents who seemed to be north-east of the Deposito. I told him that with the approval of General Hale he could do it. I waited until nearly 2 o'clock and as the firing of the sharpshooters seemed to increase the movement to begin, which I had suggested in my telegram to Gen. Hale, having been approved, was ordered. The detachment of twenty-five selected men of Major Eastwick's battalion started out, and after marching in line of skirmishers about a mile and a half on the Marquina road, and this continued until they nearly reached the Nebraska outpost. The Hotchkiss gun became disabled and besides the moral effect was of little use to us. This was no fault of the gunners, as they did hard work. One of the Utah battery guns came over and drove the insurgents out towards Marquina. They remained away until this morning, when they returned again in small bodies, but up to the present have done no firing. Last night was the quietest one we have had on our outpost. The entire Second Oregon detachment under Capt. Barber did good work, and as we did not get in until late, remained all night.

The only casualty was Corp. Wm. Ponath, Co. "G," 2nd Oregon, slightly wounded in chest and muscle of the arm. I enclose a copy of Capt. Barber's report.

Four insurgents are known to have been killed.

A Spaniard, who was with us, informed me that three battalions of insurgents were at San Mateo and that this was their advance guard.

Very respectfully, (Signed) JOHN M. STOTSBERG, Col. 1st Neb. U. S. Vol. Inf.

In the Field, Powder Magazine, February 25th, 1899.

To the Adjutant, 2nd Battn., 2nd Or. Vol. Inf.

I have the honor to report that I received orders at 1:00 p. m., Feb. 24th, to prepare to advance with 25 picked men from Companies "C," "K" and "G," 2nd Or. Inf., along Marquina road. Left Pulveria with detachment from Co. "G" to cross roads, where I received written orders from Major Eastwick, Comd'g. 2nd Battn., 2nd Or. Vol. Inf., to proceed along Marquina road in company with a detachment with Hotchkiss gun, under command of Lt. Murphy, Co. "K," 2nd Or. V. Inf. Threw out line of skirmishers north of road. Marched along Marquina road and reaching stone barricade, the detachment was thrown out as skirmishers along north side of road, keeping touch with Hotchkiss gun, which joined our right flank. No obstruction was met with until after passing native village and reaching row of huts some 300 yards from village, when we were fired upon by sharpshooters, stationed in native huts and trees. They seemed strong in number, and our fire failing to dislodge them, and there being a favorable position, fire from the Hotchkiss was opened on the village, but the shells failed to explode on striking the grass huts. We advanced and the enemy retreated towards our left flank, where a heavy fire was encountered from a strong body of the enemy who were posted in that vicinity. Changed direction to the left and took up position behind hedge which afforded fair cover, and endeavored to locate the enemy,

who were now firing upon us with volleys. We replied briskly and the enemy retreated to probably 1,000 yards, leaving behind them sharpshooters, who annoyed us until they were disposed of. The enemy divided into two large bands, one going to the right and the other to the left, in an apparent endeavor to flank us. The gun was brought up and put into a favorable position, and shelling began in the places where the enemy were hidden, especially in a house where some 50 or 60 were seen to congregate, at range of 1,400 yards. The shells burst close to the house, and the enemy evacuated it. A rapid fire of shells seemed to work damage, the shells falling amongst them and exploding. The enemy continued a heavy fire from the right, which was situated on a ridge screened by brush. A few shells were thrown there and the gun jammed. A Co. of 1st Neb. Inf. came up and formed on our left, supplying us with ammunition, which was needed, and fired volleys at various ranges. The enemy retreated beyond range and we changed direction to the right. Leaving the Neb. Co. to cover our right, we took gun to the road and advanced slowly while repairs were made to gun. Having advanced 1/4 or 1/2 mile we were fired on by a number of the enemy, who were concealed in the cane fields and trees and on the surrounding heights. The fire was chiefly volleys and well directed, sweeping all the open ground and came from the left front and left entirely. We could locate but few of the enemy, owing to the fact that they used smokeless powder, while we were at a disadvantage, having the black powder shells. As we were exposed we advanced the right and swung back the left, so as to avoid the flanking fire and afford better protection. The men sheltered themselves and we endeavored to drive the enemy back, but they gave way very little, and did not relax their fire. The gun being repaired now came up and we opened on the position of the enemy, but after a few rounds the Hotchkiss gun again jammed, owing to the breaking (rotting) of the shells. The gun being useless and the enemy having our range, we communicated with the Neb. Co. at the outpost and endeavored to withdraw to the road, which afforded a certain amount of protection. Here Corp. Ponath, Co. "G," 2nd Or. Inf., was wounded in the chest. He was carried to a disused sugar-cane mill, which afforded some protection. I went to him and ordered his removal to the road, having in the meantime sent for a litter. This was done under a heavy fire. The enemy having accurately located the mill, I received order from the outpost to withdraw to the road and come to outpost. The useless gun having gone ahead, we withdrew quickly as possible to the road, advancing under cover of the bushes, and that black powder is dangerous, as betraying our position, while the enemy, using only smokeless, can only be located by the noise or a quick eye, and that is uncertain, while each time we fired black powder they immediately sent a volley towards the smoke. Their firing was controlled by bugle heard at intervals, and they evidently had the range, as in the second fight the bullets were well aimed and not too high, as is usual. Our only casualty was Corporal Ponath, Co. "G," 2nd Or. Vol. Inf. The men were cool and obeyed orders promptly. As regards the loss of the enemy, we could only locate them by sounds; those we saw we left there. I can give no accurate statistics, as it is impossible to estimate the damage done by the shells or our volleys in the bushes. The main body of the enemy, we could locate, and as we had picked men we had no difficulty in disposing of them. After reporting to Col. Stotsenberg at the outpost we were sent to the Nebraska camp for supper. The 2nd Or. Vol. Inf. returned to the night outpost work there. We were supplied with food by the Neb. Vols. and at 9:30, Feb. 25th, the men having breakfasted, we started to return to our camp (Pulveria).

I desire to draw attention to the fact that when Corp. Ponath was wounded he was at the left of the line. He was promptly carried to the shelter of the mill by Sergt. Lane, Priv. Wm. A. Shoemaker, Albert A. Eklund and Jno. J. Maxwell, all of Co. "G," 2nd Or. Vol. Inf. under a heavy fire. Only my request for volunteers to carry him to the road, as there was a raking fire across the open, these men promptly responded and carried the wounded man gently across the road, the bullets meanwhile spattering all around them. Distance traveled, seven miles. Respectfully submitted, (Signed) R. H. BARBER, Capt. 2nd Or. Vol. Inf.

First Nebraska, U. S. Vol. Infantry, Feb. 25, 1899.

To the Adjutant, 1st Nebraska Infantry, U. S. V.

Sir: I have the honor to report that about 1:30 p. m. the enemy on lookout reported that he had noticed a body of about a dozen Filipinos stop and turn back three carromates in succession, on the road leading from the south into Marquina. I took about a dozen men under Sergt. Murdock and went down with the intention of investigating the occurrence. Upon reaching the corner of the village, where the road runs into the village, I left three men, with instructions to watch the village, and if any insurgent soldiers were seen in the village to report same, and also sent Sergt. Murdock up through the village for the same purpose, with instructions to come out at the north end of village. Taking the rest of the party, I went along north up the western edge of plain, and when about half way up the village, struck out east across the plain, having waited a while for Sergt. Murdock to report, and he having reported that although a great number of natives were sitting around in the houses, no soldiers had been seen. The party continued east until the creek was reached, and having seen nothing suspicious north or south, struck out to work back, but noticing a house half a mile south, with several moving around it, first went over there, and were about to sit down and rest awhile when Philippine soldiers were observed crossing the plain from north end of Marquina, and also coming down the plain from the north, as well as coming west from the foothills across the creek. Almost at the same time a large number of natives dressed in white came out from Marquina and ran for the stacks of straw in the vicinity.

Suspecting that an attempt was to be made to cut off the party, I at once directed that we move back towards camp, but as soon as we started fire was opened upon us from the stacks, from the village, from ridges north of us and from the edge of the creek northeast of us. We at once returned the fire, at the same time working over to the west and kept up a scattering fire, at the same time working west, but keeping as much under cover as possible. The enemy advanced at one time to about five hundred yards, when the artillery from the hill opened fire and the enemy at once ceased to advance and began to retire. Our party then began to advance, as we saw a company in the distance coming to our support. The enemy by this time had gotten about one thousand yards away, and our party then advanced to Marquina again, where the three men reported that a large number of natives had run out from the village dressed in white, had gone to the straw stacks and then opened fire, evidently having had arms concealed in the stacks. The scouting party again went through Marquina up to the northeast corner, and found a small party of insurgents about four hundred yards distant, and opened fire and drove them back out of range, after which the party started south again through the village.

When reaching the southern end of village, it was found to be in flames and upon us

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